

Kalenjin languages

The **Kalenjin languages** are a family of a dozen Southern Nilotic languages spoken in Kenya, eastern Uganda and northern Tanzania. The term Kalenjin comes from an expression meaning 'I say (to you)' or 'I have told you' (present participle tense). *Kalenjin* in this broad linguistic sense should not be confused with *Kalenjin* as a term for the common identity the Nandi-speaking peoples of Kenya assumed halfway through the twentieth century; see *Kalenjin people* and *Kalenjin language*.

Contents

Branches

Comparative vocabulary

Footnotes

References

External links

Branches

The Kalenjin languages are generally distinguished into four branches. There is less certainty regarding internal relationships within these.

- Elgon (Sebei)
- Nandi–Markweta (Kalenjin)
- Okiek–Mosiro
- Pökoot

Comparative vocabulary

Sample basic vocabulary of Kalenjin languages from van Otterloo (1979),^[2] and Proto-Southern Nilotic from Rottland (1982):^[3]

Language	eye	ear	nose	tooth	tongue	mouth	blood	bone	tree	water	to eat	name
Proto-Southern Nilotic	*kɔːŋ, *kɔŋ	*iːt	*ser	*keːL-at	*ŋɛLyɛp	*kɔːt		*kaːw	*kɛːt	*peR		*kaːRɪn
Nandi	kɔːnda	iːtit	seruːt	kɛːldɛt	ŋɛlyɛpta	kɥːtɨt	korotiːk	kaːweːt	keːtit	beːk	keam	kɑːyɛːt
Kipsigis	kɔːnda	iːtit	seruːt	kɛːldɛt	ŋɛlyɛpta	kɥːtɨt	korotiːk	kaːweːt	keːtit	beːk	keam	kɑːyɛːt
Terik	kɔːnda	iːtit	seruːt	kɛːndɛt	ŋɛnyɛpta	kɥːtɨt	korotiːk	kaːweːt	keːtit	beːk	keam	kɑːyɛːt
Keiyo	kɔːnda	iːtit	seruːt	kɛːldɛt	ŋɛlyɛpta	kɥːtɨt	korotiːk	kaːweːt	keːtit	beːk	keam	kɑːyɛːt
South Tugen	kɔːnda	iːtit	seruː(t)	kɛːldɛ(t)	ŋɛlyɛpta	kɥːtɨ	korotiːk	kaːweː	keːt(it)	beːk	keam	kɑːyɛːt
North Tugen	kɔːŋ	iːt	seɽ	kɛːlɔt	ŋɛlyɛp	kɥːt	koroti	kaːwe	keːt	beːy	keam	kɑːyɛ
Kony-Sabaot	kɔːnda	iːtit	serwut	kɛːldɛt	ŋɛlyɛpta	kɥːtɨt	korotiːk	kaːweːt	keːtit	peːgo	keam	kɑːyɛːt
Cherang'any	kɔːnda/kɔːŋ	iːtit	seruːt	kɛːlɔt	ŋɛlyɛp	kɥːt(ɨt)	korotiːk	kaːwe	keːt	beːy	keam	kɑːyɛ
Talai	kɔːŋ	iːt	seɽ	kɛːlɔt	ŋɔlyɔp	kɥːt	koroti	kaːwa	keːt	pʰeːy	keam	kɑːyɛ
Endo	kɔːŋ	iːt	seɽ	kɛːlɔt	ŋɔlyɔp	kɥːt	koroti/kisun	kaːwa	keːt	bɥɨɽ	keam	kɑɽɛn
East Pokot	koːŋ	yɨːt	sɑɽ	kɛːlɔt	ŋɔlyɔp	kɥːt	kisʊn	kaːwaʔ	keːt	pʊːy	keam	kɑːyɛːt

Footnotes

- Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Kalenjin" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kale1246>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
- van Otterloo, Roger. 1979. *A Kalenjin dialect study*. (Language Data Africa Series, 18.) Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics.

Kalenjin	
Geographic distribution	western Kenya, eastern Uganda, northern Tanzania
Linguistic classification	Nilo-Saharan? <ul style="list-style-type: none">Eastern Sudanic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nilotic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Southern Nilotic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kalenjin
Subdivisions	Elgon <div></div> Nandi–Markweta <div></div> Okiek–Mosi ro <div></div> Pökoot
ISO 639-3	kln (http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=kln)
Glottolog	kale1246 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kale1246) ^[1]

3. Rottland, Franz. 1982. *Die Südnilotischen Sprachen: Beschreibung, Vergleichung und Rekonstruktion* (Kölner Beiträge zur Afrikanistik vol. 7). Berlin: Dietrich Reimer.

References

- Distefano, John Albert. 1985. *The precolonial history of the Kalenjin of Kenya: a methodological comparison of linguistic and oral traditional evidence*. Doctoral dissertation, University of California at Los Angeles.
- Rottland, Franz (1982) *Die Südnilotischen Sprachen: Beschreibung, Vergleichung und Rekonstruktion* (Kölner Beiträge zur Afrikanistik vol. 7). Berlin: Dietrich Reimer. (See esp. map 1 on p. 31, and the 'Sprachbeschreibung' of the Kalenjin languages on pp. 69–143.)
- van Otterloo, Roger. 1979. *A Kalenjin dialect study*. (Language Data Africa Series, 18.) Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics.

External links

- Kalenjin–English Dictionary (<http://africanlanguages.com/kalenjin/>)
 - A Kalenjin website (<https://web.archive.org/web/20131222204741/http://www.kalenjin.net/newsite/>)
 - Phonology of Endo - a Kalenjin language (<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.129.5150&rep=rep1&type=pdf>)
-

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Kalenjin_languages&oldid=946982147"

This page was last edited on 23 March 2020, at 15:40 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.